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MICHIGAN STATE SENATE JOHN J. GLEASON STATE SENATOR • 27TH DISTRICT

Dear Friend,

It is a critical time for Michigan so I feel that it is necessary that I am honest and forthright throughout this newsletter. I want to tell you about some of the positive things that have been happening, but also about the difficult decisions that lie ahead.

With many families struggling to make ends meet and employers cutting jobs, it is not the time to ask more of working families. It is the time to address cost-saving government reforms, innovative ways to grow small business and efforts toward job creation.

Although the path ahead is difficult, it cannot be done without the help of others. I have been in schools, attend city council and township meetings, and host coffee hours to meet with people in the district. It is through this constant contact with the community that I feel and understand my constituents' everyday struggles to either maintain or gain employment. We need our community leaders across this state to be committed to Michigan workers because it is our Michigan workforce that will drive the economic turnaround for this state.

I hope you find this newsletter to be an honest reflection into the way my colleagues and I are working hard to protect Michigan citizens. I am honored to serve as your State Senator. Please do not hesitate to contact my office if I can be of some assistance.

Sincerely,

John J. Gleason

John J. Gleason • State Senator

How a Bill Becomes a Law

I believe that it is vitally important for the citizens of Michigan to fully understand the legislative process in Lansing. Becoming an informed citizen is a key step to being an involved citizen. Here is an in-depth look at how the process works.

STEP 1

Bill is introduced in either house of the Legislature. Senate bills are filed with the Secretary of the Senate and House bills are filed with the Clerk of the House.

STEP 2

Bill receives First and Second Reading in the Senate and First Reading in the House. (Procedure at this step consists of reading title of the bill only.) Bill is then ordered to be printed.

STEP 3

Bill is referred to proper standing committee in the Senate by the Majority Leader and in the House of Representatives by the Speaker of the House. (All bills involving an appropriation must be referred either directly to the Appropriations Committee of the respective chamber or to an appropriate standing committee and then to the Appropriations Committee.)

STEP 4

Committee members consider a bill by discussing and debating the bill. The committee may hold public hearings on the bill. Voting records regarding committee action are available to the public for inspection.

STEP 5

Committee may act on a bill in various ways. The committee may:

- a. Report the bill with favorable recommendation.
- b. Report the bill with amendments with favorable recommendation.
- c. Report a substitute bill in place of the original bill.
- d. Report the bill with adverse recommendation.**
- e. Report the bill without recommendation.**
- f. Report the bill with amendments but without recommendation.**
- g. Report the bill with the recommendation that the bill be referred to another committee.
- h. Take no action on the bill.
- i. Refuse to report the bill out of committee.

In both houses, a majority of the members serving on a committee shall be necessary to report a bill. If a committee fails to report a bill, the bill may be forced out of the committee by a motion to discharge the committee from consideration of the bill. If the motion is approved by a vote of a majority of the members elected and serving in the respective house, the bill is then placed in position on the calendar for floor action. In the House, at least one day prior notice of the motion to discharge must be given to the Clerk of the House.

STEP 6

If bill is reported from committee favorably with or without amendment or in the form of a substitute bill, the committee report is printed in the Journal under the order of business "Reports of Standing Committees." On being reported favorably from committee, the bill and committee amendments (if any) are placed on General Orders in the Senate. In the House, the bill and amendments are referred to the order of "Second Reading." Action may also be taken to place the bill on special order of business on General Orders in the Senate or on Second Reading in the House at a specified date. In the House, the bill may be considered on Third Reading, by a suspension of the rules, without having been considered on Second Reading.

STEP 7

Senate resolves itself into the Committee of the Whole and the House assumes the order of Second Reading where the standing committee recommendations on a bill are considered. Amendments to the bill may be offered by any member when the bill is being considered by the Committee of the Whole or on Second Reading. In the Senate, a simple majority of members present and voting may recommend adoption of amendments to the bill and recommend a bill be advanced to Third Reading. In the House, amendments may be adopted by a majority serving and a majority voting may advance the bill to Third Reading. In the House, a bill may be placed on Third Reading on a specified date.

STEP 8

Upon Third Reading in the Senate, an entire bill is read unless unanimous consent is given to consider the bill read. In the House, the bill is read in its entirety on Third Reading unless four-fifths of the

members consent to consider the bill read. In practice, few bills are read in full in either chamber. In both houses, amendments must be approved by a majority vote of members serving. In both the Senate and the House, the previous question may be moved and debate cut off by a vote of a majority of the members present and voting. At the conclusion of Third Reading, the bill is either passed or defeated by a roll call vote of the majority of the members elected and serving (pursuant to the state Constitution, approval of certain measures requires a two-thirds vote) or one of the following four options is exercised to delay final action on the bill: **(a)** the bill is returned to committee for further consideration; **(b)** the bill is postponed indefinitely; **(c)** the bill is made a special order of business on Third Reading for a specified date; or **(d)** the bill is tabled. Following either passage or defeat of a bill, a legislator may move for reconsideration of the bill. In the Senate, the motion for reconsideration must be made within the following two session days; in the House, the motion must be made within the next succeeding session day.

STEP 9

If the bill passes, it is sent to the other legislative house where the bill follows the procedure outlined in Steps 2-8, resulting in defeat or passage. If bill is passed by both houses in identical form, the bill is ordered enrolled by the house in which the bill originated. Upon enrollment, the bill is sent to the Governor. However, if bill is passed in a different form by the second house, the bill must be returned to the house of origin.

- a. If amendments or substitute bill of second house are accepted in house of origin, the bill is enrolled and sent to the Governor.
- b. If amendments or substitute proposal of second house are rejected in the house of origin, the bill is then sent to conference committee (special committee composed of legislators from both houses) which attempts to compromise differences between the two versions of the bill adopted by the houses. The conference committee can consider only issues in the bill upon which there is disagreement between the two houses. The conference committee may reach a compromise and submit a report to both houses of the Legislature. If the conference committee report

is approved by both houses, bill is enrolled and sent to the Governor. If the conference committee does not reach a compromise, or if the Legislature does not accept the conference report, a second conference committee may be appointed.

STEP 10

Upon receipt of an enrolled bill, the Governor has fourteen days to consider the bill. The Governor may:

- a. Sign the bill, which then either becomes law at the expiration of ninety days after the Legislature adjourns sine die or a date beyond the ninetieth day specified in the bill. If the bill has been given immediate effect by a two-thirds vote of the members elected to and serving in each house, the bill will become law at the time of the Governor's signature or on a day specified in the bill.
- b. Veto the bill and return it to the house of origin with a message stating the Governor's objections.
- c. Choose not to sign or veto the bill. If the bill is neither signed nor vetoed, the bill becomes law fourteen days after having reached the Governor's desk if the Legislature is in session or in recess. If the Legislature should adjourn sine die before the end of the fourteen days, the unsigned bill does not become law. If the Legislature has adjourned by the time the bill reaches the Governor, the Governor has fourteen days to consider the bill. If the Governor fails to approve the bill, it does not become law.

STEP 11

If the Governor vetoes a bill while the Legislature is in session or recess, one of the following actions may occur:

- a. Legislature may override the veto by two-thirds vote of members elected and serving in both houses, and the bill becomes law.
- b. Bill may not receive the necessary two-thirds vote and thus the attempt to override the veto will fail.
- c. Bill may be tabled.
- d. Bill may be re-referred to a committee for consideration.

*** In these instances, the bill upon being reported from committee is tabled (temporarily removed from consideration) on the floor. A majority vote of the members serving in the house where the bill is tabled is required to remove the bill from the table before the bill may be given further consideration.*

State Senator John J. Gleason

Serving the Constituents in the 27th District

Working Hard for the District

There are many different voices with a variety of different opinions in my Senate district. It would be unrealistic to believe that I could make every voter happy with the decisions that are made in Lansing. That being said, I am committed to protecting the interest of my constituents.

I have worked hard to support issues that strive for the goal of creating a healthier and more prosperous Genesee County. Loss of police and fire services due to local revenue sharing cuts are unacceptable. I have never supported cuts to local revenue sharing. I will continue to advocate for greater support of local revenue sharing that maintains public safety along with early childhood and K-12 education, and healthcare for our most vulnerable citizens.

My concerns do not stop there. I have been deeply involved in making sure that the new Department of Human Services building as well as the consolidated Secretary of State building in the City of Flint are located downtown with easy access to city bus routes. Another top priority of mine is obtaining more federal stimulus dollars on top of the \$36 million I have helped to secure to continue to fix our crumbling roads.

As I continue fighting for our district, I need to hear your issues, too. It is important that you bring your concerns to the forefront. I encourage you to come to my coffee hours that are being held throughout the district. Also you can follow our progress on Facebook to find regular updates on my activities.



Jobs! Jobs! Jobs! Jobs! Jobs!

With the highest unemployment in the nation, jobs are at the forefront of everyone's mind in Genesee County. I know of many people, as I am sure you do as well, that have lost their jobs or are afraid that the next time their employer cuts costs they too could be laid off. We should not have to live with this type of fear.

We need to do everything we can to help turn our economy around. We must develop a vibrant small business environment in this state with a competitive tax structure that will help small businesses invest and grow their workforces. We need to support our automotive and other manufacturing industries while also pursuing new and growing industries to diversify our economy. We also need to tighten our belts through government reforms that reduce spending, and push for legislation to help Michigan workers and their families.

One of the most important things that we can do during these difficult times is to support our local workers. With an influx of stimulus dollars to the State of Michigan and its local communities, it is imperative that this money be spent within the communities it was sent to help. When I caught "wind" that stimulus dollars were going to China to help build windmills, and contracts in Genesee County were not going to local contractors, I was furious. That is why I introduced Senate Resolution 115 that encourages local communities to spend stimulus dollars on local contractors and workers. On March 11, 2010, this resolution passed the Senate 37-0 with full support from both Republicans and Democrats.

Furthermore, I have and will continue to encourage the Michigan Senate to take up legislation that would provide incentives to Michigan companies that hire Michigan workers. We have the most qualified workforce in the United States; it is now time to put them to work.

Supporting Veterans

My support for the military veterans of this state and our country is and will always remain strong. There is no one that I respect more than those who serve our country in a time of great need. My father is a Korean War-era veteran, I have a nephew who is a Navy pilot and another nephew in the Coast Guard. I was brought up to respect those who have fought and are currently fighting for the freedom we all enjoy today.

When the budget process was taking place last year, there was a movement toward cutting veteran services. I refused to sit by idly while our servicemen and women, like my father, were in danger of losing the

benefits that I felt they truly deserved.

After organizing a town hall meeting at a local VFW hall last April, I was able to gather the views and opinions of the veterans in my district and carry those concerns back to Lansing. Armed with this valuable information, I was able to be meticulously involved in the budget process and work toward a compromise that maintained the funding for Veteran Service Offices across our state.

I cannot express my deepest gratitude enough to the veterans of this state for their dedication to protecting the rights and freedom of all Americans.

Legislation

I hope you took the time to read “How a Bill Becomes a Law” earlier in this newsletter so that you fully understand the process that I work with on a daily basis.

I am tired of politicians always taking care of themselves. In an increasingly partisan environment here in Lansing, I am committed to working with my Republican counterparts to do what is right for Michigan. I have worked hard to build relationships on the other side of the aisle this year and refuse to tear them down because of silly political gamesmanship. We need to be more mature about our responsibilities because, as I see it, the only way you can be a responsible legislator is if you are responsible to the people you serve.

In March, I was able to pass and have the Governor sign Senate Bill 1045 which requires that organ donation be taught within our driver education classes. As an organ recipient, I also

helped pass legislation to put the heart emblem on the front of your driver’s license. In doing so, we took on the responsibility to inform our young drivers about the decision to become an organ donor. This legislation will provide information to each student and allow them to discuss the issue with their family and make an informed decision.

For more information or to sign up to be an organ donor, please visit Gift of Life Michigan’s website at www.giftoflifemichigan.org. Please give so others can live.

Other legislation that I hope to have passed in the coming months with bipartisan support includes:

Districting for County Road Commissioners: This legislation would require districts be drawn for County Road Commission elections. This would allow for equal representation within the county ensuring that residents and their issues are properly attended to. Senator Jud Gilbert (R-Algonac) and I will be working hard to move this legislation through the Senate.

Brownfield Redevelopment: This is an issue that I have worked hard on with Senator Jason Allen (R-Traverse City). He and I are committed to making it easier to redevelop Brownfield sites across Michigan allowing for business development and job growth. This legislation will help to streamline the process by which the potential investor and job creators interact with the Department of Natural Resources and Environment.

Individual Healthcare Market Reform: This issue has been a hot topic in Lansing for well over a year and the time has come to find a resolution to this issue. Senator Tom George (R-Kalamazoo) and I have worked tirelessly to try and ensure that every Michigan citizen has access to healthcare. With high unemployment rates and many employers dropping their healthcare coverage, a large number of our citizens are being forced to buy their own healthcare. This legislation will help to provide guaranteed access to affordable healthcare regardless of pre-existing condition, age, or prior health concerns.

Around the Capitol

Here are a few highlights from the previous months:

- I founded the Disability Caucus to help bring awareness to the issues facing those who are disabled and it has been a huge success. We have hosted the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Association Annual Day at the Capitol and held a discussion on the state of oral health in the disabled community across Michigan. As an avid outdoorsman, I have also worked with the group to place a large emphasis on promoting outdoor recreation for all individuals with disabilities.
- Hosted my 2nd Annual Hunter Safety class for the disabled and was awarded the “Conservationist of the Year” award by the Michigan United Conservation Clubs.
- Was recognized as the “2010 Oral Health Champion” by the Michigan Oral Health Coalition for my extensive work on oral health concerns with the disabled.
- Featured in The Midwestern Office of the Council of State Governments monthly publication for my continued work on the benefits of becoming an organ donor.
- Supported the views of the agricultural community in Genesee County by opposing Governor Granholm’s Executive Order that

would have stripped the power of the Agricultural Commission. I also did not support the Governor’s “Michigan Meatout Day” proclamation.



Coffee Hours

Coffee Hours are held from 9-10 am.

- **June 7, 2010 - Flint Township Hall**
1490 South Dye Rd. • Flint, MI 48532
- **June 21, 2010 - Brown Sugar Café**
432 South Saginaw St. • Flint, MI 48502
- **July 12, 2010 - Fenton Community Center**
150 South Leroy St. • Fenton, MI 48430
- **July 19, 2010 - Flint City Hall**
1101 South Saginaw St. • Flint, MI 48502

**Find me on Facebook**

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